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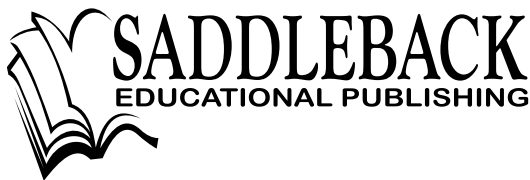
# King Lear

WILLIAM  
SHAKESPEARE

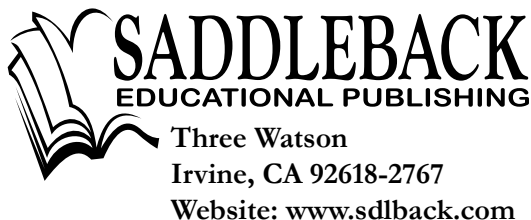


# *King Lear*

*William Shakespeare*



# Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*<sup>TM</sup>



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# Welcome to Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*<sup>TM</sup>

We are proud to welcome you to Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*<sup>TM</sup>. Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*<sup>TM</sup> was designed specifically for the classroom to introduce readers to many of the great classics in literature. Each text, written and adapted by teachers and researchers, has been edited using the Dale-Chall vocabulary system. In addition, much time and effort has been spent to ensure that these high-interest stories retain all of the excitement, intrigue, and adventure of the original books.

With these graphically *Illustrated Classics*<sup>TM</sup>, you learn what happens in the story in a number of different ways. One way is by reading the words a character says. Another way is by looking at the drawings of the character. The artist can tell you what kind of person a character is and what he or she is thinking or feeling.

This series will help you to develop confidence and a sense of accomplishment as you finish each novel. The stories in Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*<sup>TM</sup> are fun to read. And remember, fun motivates!

# Overview

Everyone deserves to read the best literature our language has to offer. Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*<sup>TM</sup> was designed to acquaint readers with the most famous stories from the world's greatest authors, while teaching essential skills. You will learn how to:

- Establish a purpose for reading
- Activate prior knowledge
- Evaluate your reading
- Listen to the language as it is written
- Extend literary and language appreciation through discussion and writing activities.

Reading is one of the most important skills you will ever learn. It provides the key to all kinds of information. By reading the *Illustrated Classics*<sup>TM</sup>, you will develop confidence and the self-satisfaction that comes from accomplishment—a solid foundation for any reader.

Remember,

*“Today’s readers are tomorrow’s leaders.”*

## William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare was baptized on April 26, 1564, in Stratford-on-Avon, England, the third child of John Shakespeare, a well-to-do merchant, and Mary Arden, his wife. Young William probably attended the Stratford grammar school, where he learned English, Greek, and a great deal of Latin. Historians aren't sure of the exact date of Shakespeare's birth.

In 1582, Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway. By 1583 the couple had a daughter, Susanna, and two years later the twins, Hamnet and Judith. Somewhere between 1585 and 1592 Shakespeare went to London, where he became first an actor and then a playwright. His acting company, *The King's Men*, appeared most often in the *Globe* theater, a part of which Shakespeare himself owned.

In all, Shakespeare is believed to have written thirty-seven plays, several nondramatic poems, and a number of sonnets. In 1611 when he left the active life of the theater, he returned to Stratford and became a country gentleman, living in the second-largest house in town. For five years he lived a quiet life. Then, on April 23, 1616, William Shakespeare died and was buried in Trinity Church in Stratford. From his own time to the present, Shakespeare is considered one of the greatest writers of the English-speaking world.



*William Shakespeare*

# *King Lear*





NEARLY TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO, OLD KING LEAR RULED BRITAIN. HE HAD THREE DAUGHTERS: GONERIL, REGAN, AND CORDELIA.

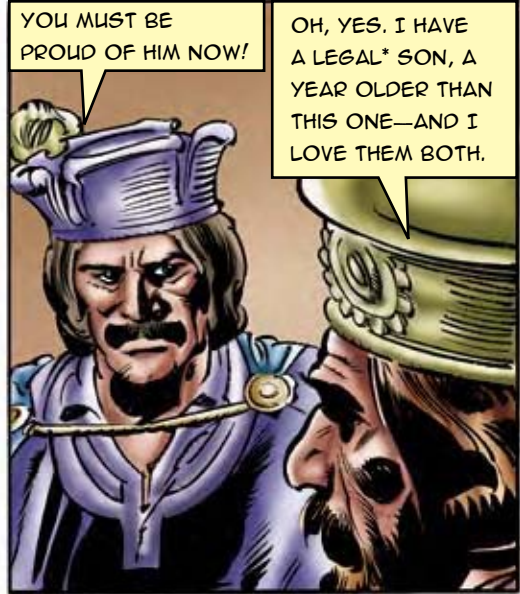


LEAR HAD ALWAYS BEEN A MAN WHO ACTED WITHOUT THINKING THINGS THROUGH. BECAUSE OF THIS, HE WAS ABOUT TO MAKE ONE OF THE BIGGEST MISTAKES OF HIS LIFE.



\* say that something is so





\* according to the law

AT THE SOUND OF  
TRUMPETS, KING  
LEAR ENTERED  
WITH HIS COURT.



THE KING OF  
FRANCE AND THE  
DUKE OF BURGUN-  
DY ARE OUTSIDE,  
GLOUCESTER.  
BRING THEM IN.

I WILL SIR.





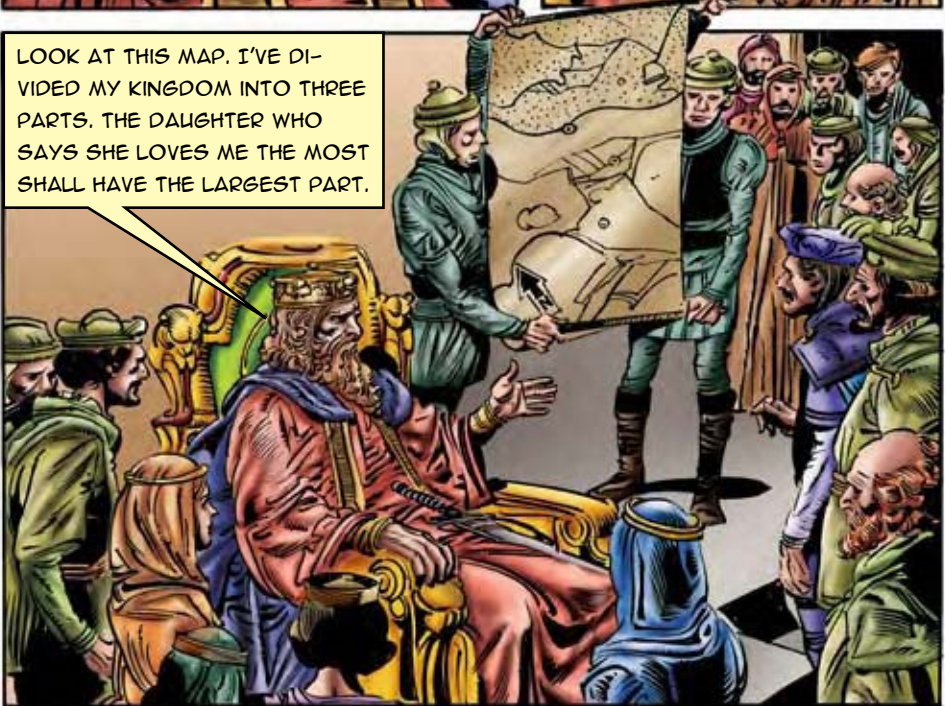
WITHOUT WAITING FOR HIS VISITORS, THE OLD KING MADE HIS ANNOUNCEMENT.\*

I AM OLD AND TIRED OF THE TROUBLES OF RULING A KINGDOM.

I WANT TO GIVE UP MY THRONE AND LET MY DAUGHTERS RULE!



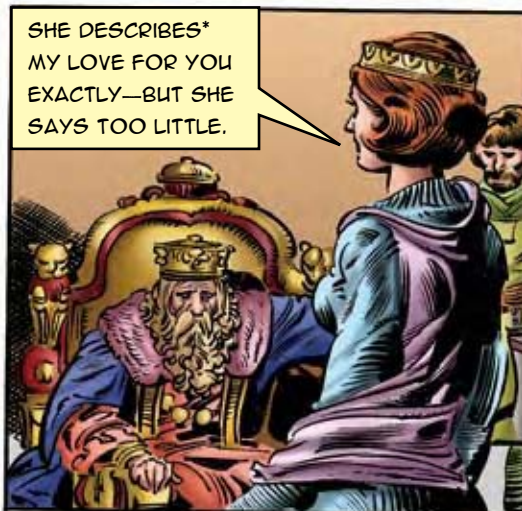
LOOK AT THIS MAP. I'VE DIVIDED MY KINGDOM INTO THREE PARTS. THE DAUGHTER WHO SAYS SHE LOVES ME THE MOST SHALL HAVE THE LARGEST PART.



\* a statement made before a group of people







\* explains, shows, tells about

\*\* showing how two things are alike or different



BUT CORDELIA,  
THE KING'S  
YOUNGEST  
DAUGHTER,  
WAS UNHAPPY  
AT WHAT HER  
SISTERS SAID.

WHAT DO I DO? I  
LOVE MY FATHER  
MORE THAN THEY DO.



BUT I CAN'T SPEAK OF  
MY LOVE. I CAN'T LIE AND  
FLATTER\* HIM, AS THEY DO.

IF MY FATHER  
DOESN'T KNOW  
THAT I LOVE HIM,  
THEN I CAN'T HELP  
IT!



\* make someone think he is better than he really is



THEN, HE TURNED TO CORDELIA, HIS YOUNGEST AND FAVORITE\* DAUGHTER.



\* best loved

\*\* sought after in marriage



YOU'RE MY FATHER. YOU'VE RAISED ME AND LOVED ME. I OBEY YOU, LOVE YOU, AND HONOR\* YOU.



I DON'T SEE HOW MY SISTERS CAN SAY THEY LOVE *ONLY* YOU. WHAT ABOUT THEIR HUSBANDS?



WHEN I MARRY, I SHALL GIVE MY HUSBAND HALF MY LOVE AND CARE.

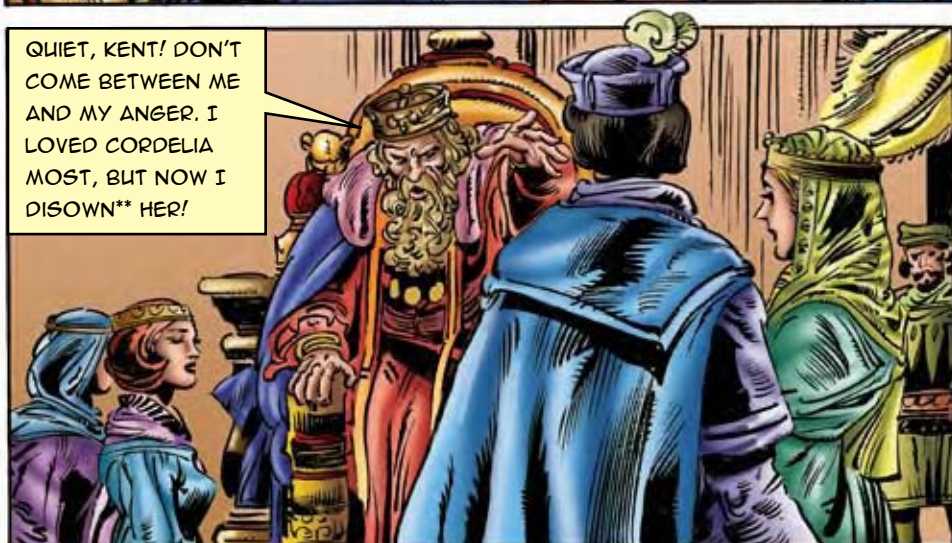


I CANNOT DO WHAT THEY SAY THEY DO.



\* respect





\* whatever a child receives at his parents' death

\*\* have nothing more to do with

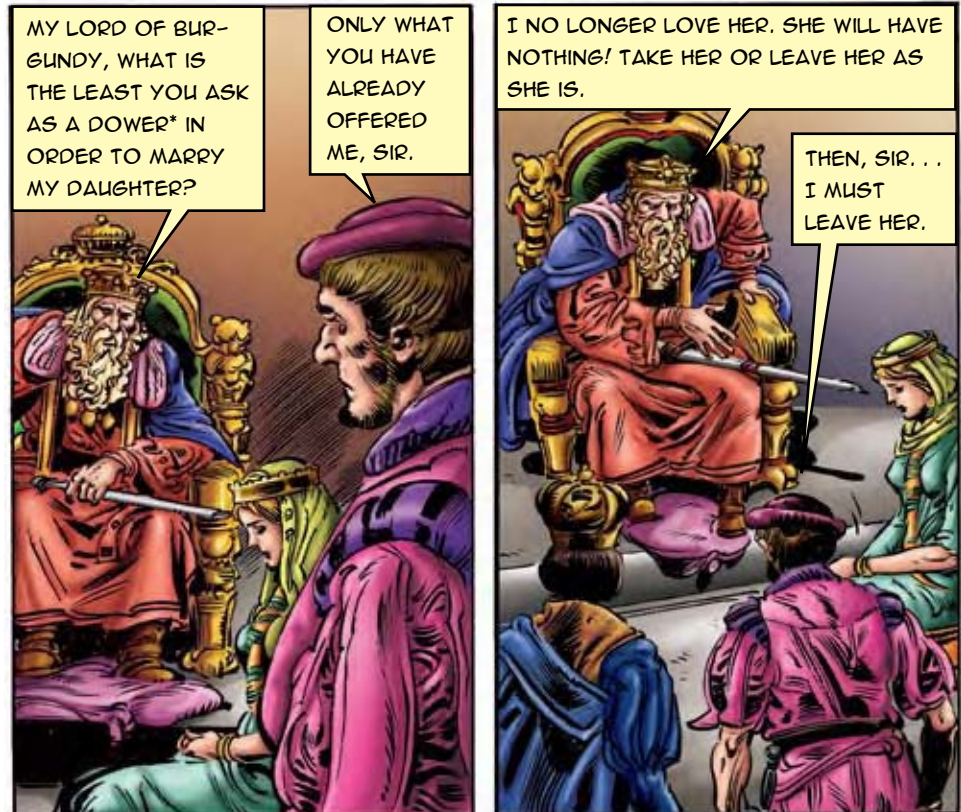
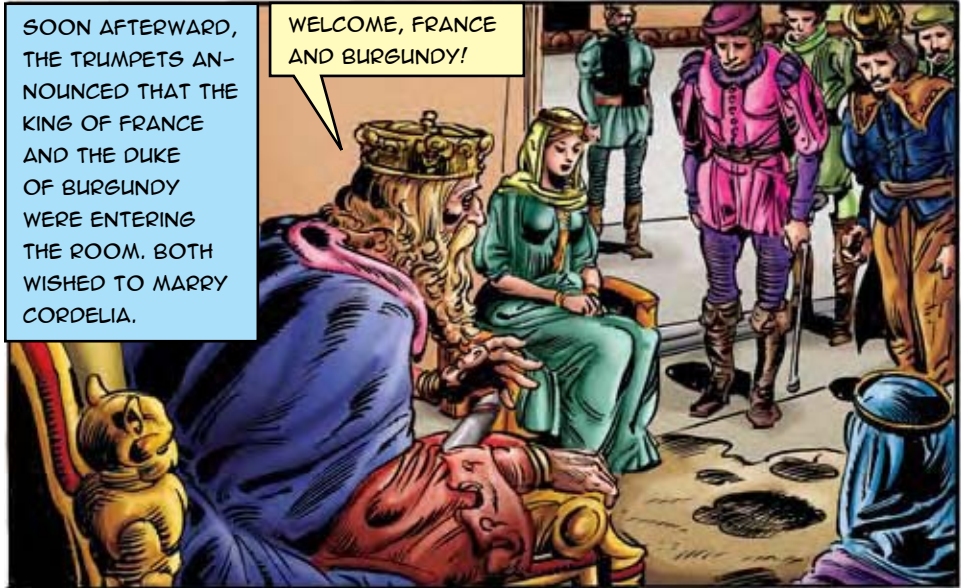


\* objected, did not agree





\* sent away forever



\* money given to a daughter and her husband when she is married





SHE IS YOURS. I'LL NEVER SEE HER AGAIN! BE GONE, WITHOUT MY LOVE AND MY BLESSING.

SAYING THIS, LEAR LEFT THE ROOM WITH THE DUKES OF CORNWALL, ALBANY, AND GLOUCESTER.

TELL YOUR SISTERS GOODBYE.

I LEAVE OUR FATHER TO YOUR CARE. GIVE HIM THE LOVE YOU SAY YOU FEEL FOR HIM.

SINCE YOU NOW HAVE NOTHING, YOU'D BETTER THINK ABOUT PLEASING YOUR NEW HUSBAND!

DON'T TELL US WHAT TO DO!



AND SO CORDELIA WENT TO FRANCE AND KENT WAS EXILED.\* KING LEAR GAVE UP HIS POWERS TO GONERIL AND REGAN.

MEANWHILE, IN GLOUCESTER'S CASTLE, HIS SON EDMUND PLOTTED AGAINST HIS HALF-BROTHER\*\* EDGAR.

WHY SHOULD I SUFFER BECAUSE MY MOTHER WAS NOT MARRIED TO MY FATHER? WHY SHOULD EDGAR GET EVERYTHING?



NO! I MUST HAVE EDGAR'S LAND FOR MYSELF!

AND THIS LETTER I HAVE WRITTEN WILL GET IT FOR ME!



\* sent away

\*\* a brother who shares only one parent with another brother or sister



\* the act of remaining faithful in hard times



"IF MY FATHER SHOULD DIE SOON,  
I WOULD GIVE YOU HALF OF HIS  
FORTUNE. YOUR BROTHER, EDGAR."



"IF MY FATHER SHOULD DIE  
SOON. . . I WOULD GIVE YOU HALF  
HIS FORTUNE. . ." EDGAR WROTE  
THIS? WHO BROUGHT IT TO YOU?



IS THIS HIS  
HANDWRITING?



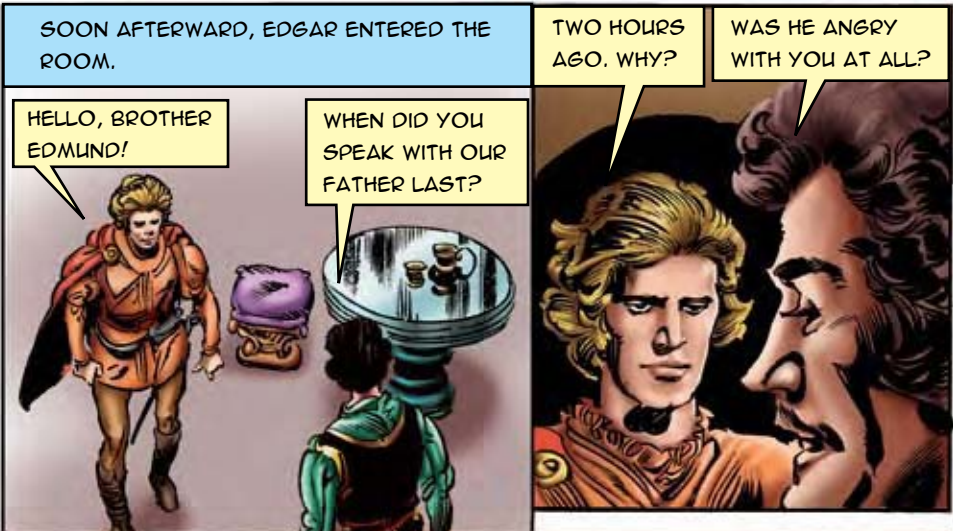
YES. I HOPE  
HIS HEART IS  
NOT IN IT. BUT  
I'VE HEARD  
HIM SAY  
SUCH THINGS  
BEFORE.



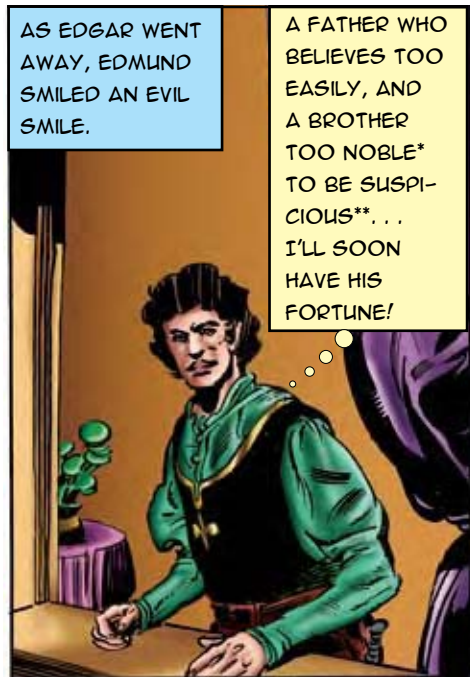
OH, HOW *COULD*  
HE? WHERE IS  
HE?

I DON'T KNOW. MAY-  
BE YOU MISJUDGE\*  
HIM. I'LL FIND HIM  
AND TEST HIM OUT.

\* believe someone to be different from what he really is







\* good and honest

\*\* thinking evil of someone





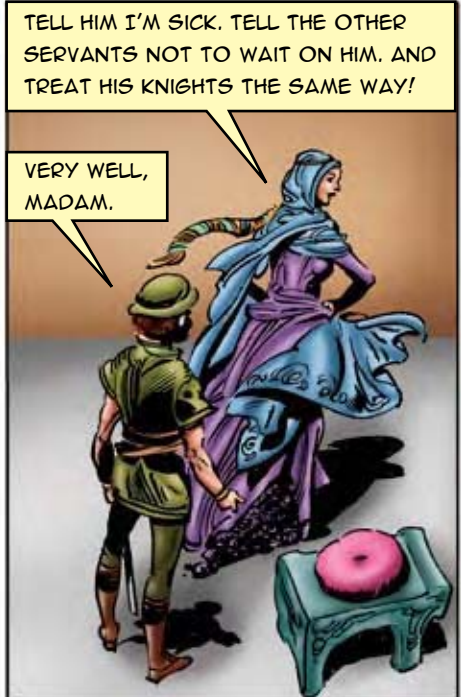
IT WAS SEVERAL DAYS LATER. KING LEAR AND HIS KNIGHTS WERE STAYING WITH GONERIL AND THE DUKE OF ALBANY. GONERIL SPOKE WITH OSWALD, HER SERVANT.

MY FATHER IS OLD AND FOOLISH. HE GAVE AWAY HIS POWERS, BUT HE STILL TRIES TO GIVE ORDERS. I WON'T STAND FOR IT!



YES, MADAM.

HIS KNIGHTS CAUSE TROUBLE. AND HE'S NEVER HAPPY WITH WHAT WE GIVE HIM. WHEN HE RETURNS FROM HUNTING, I WON'T SEE HIM!



TELL HIM I'M SICK. TELL THE OTHER SERVANTS NOT TO WAIT ON HIM. AND TREAT HIS KNIGHTS THE SAME WAY!

VERY WELL, MADAM.



\* dressed to look like someone else



AT THAT MOMENT, THE SERVANT OSWALD ENTERED THE ROOM. BUT INSTEAD OF SERVING THE KING, HE WALKED AWAY AGAIN. LEAR BEGAN TO SEE THAT GONERIL AND HER SERVANTS HAD NO RESPECT FOR HIS WISHES.

WHENEVER HE SAW HIS OLDEST DAUGHTER, SHE LOOKED ANGRY. ONE DAY HE COULD TAKE IT NO LONGER.

DAUGHTER, WHY DO YOU FROWN SO MUCH?

WHY SHOULDN'T I? YOUR FOOL MAKES FUN OF US. YOUR KNIGHTS MAKE TROUBLE. GET RID OF THEM AT ONCE! ALL YOU NEED HERE ARE A FEW OLD MEN TO SERVE YOU!

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT TO ME? I HAVE ANOTHER DAUGHTER... I'LL GO TO HER! SADDLE MY HORSES!

BUT AS LEAR PREPARED TO LEAVE FOR REGAN'S CASTLE, GONERIL MADE PLANS OF HER OWN.

TAKE THIS LETTER TO MY SISTER. TELL HER EVERYTHING! THEN HURRY BACK.

WHILE ALL THIS WAS HAPPENING, EDMUND CONTINUED TO PLOT AGAINST EDGAR.

YOU MUST GO! NOT ONLY OUR FATHER IS LOOKING FOR YOU, BUT REGAN AND THE DUKE OF CORNWALL ARE TOO! THEY'RE COMING HERE NOW!

BUT I'VE DONE NOTHING TO HURT THEM!

FATHER'S COMING.  
QUICK, DRAW YOUR  
SWORD! I MUST  
PRETEND TO FIGHT  
YOU!



NOW GET AWAY,  
BROTHER, QUICKLY...  
OR THEY'LL CATCH  
YOU!



I'LL STAB MY-  
SELF—PRETEND  
THAT EDGAR HAS  
HURT ME!



LIGHT, HERE!  
TORCHES! FATHER!  
HELP!



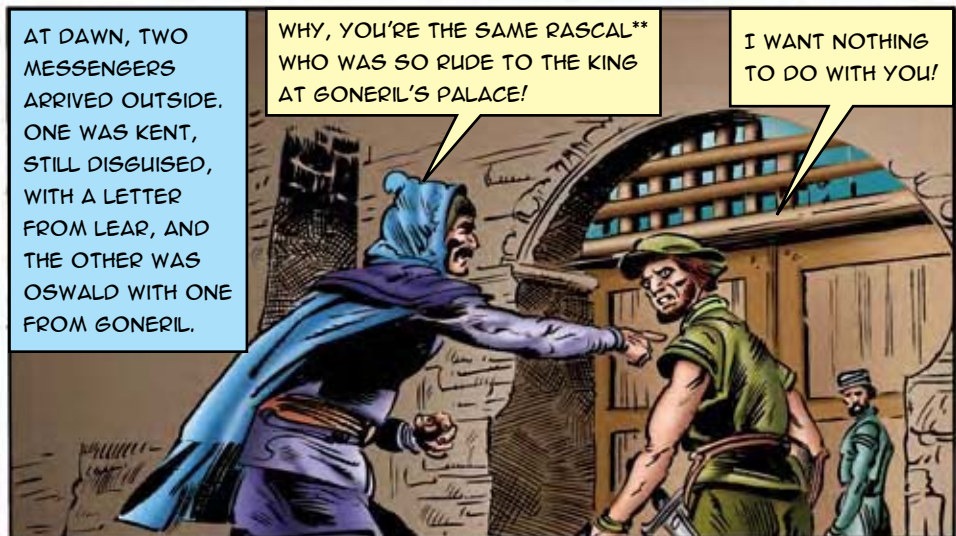
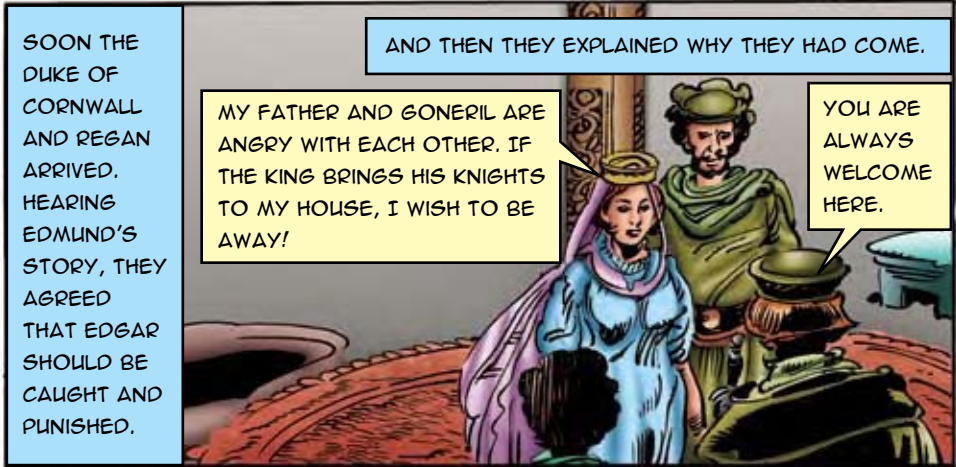
WHERE IS HE?





\* injured, cut

\*\* hunted as a criminal



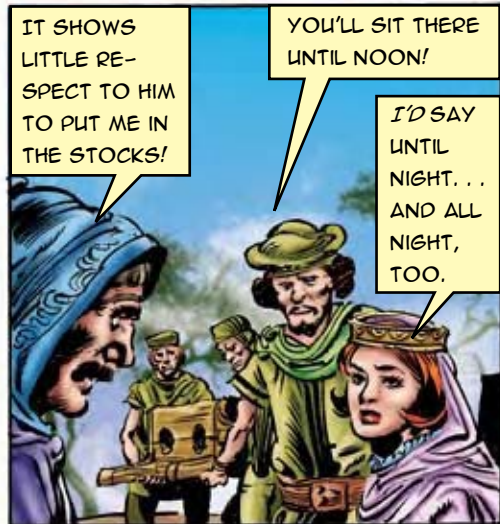
\* help

\*\* dishonest person

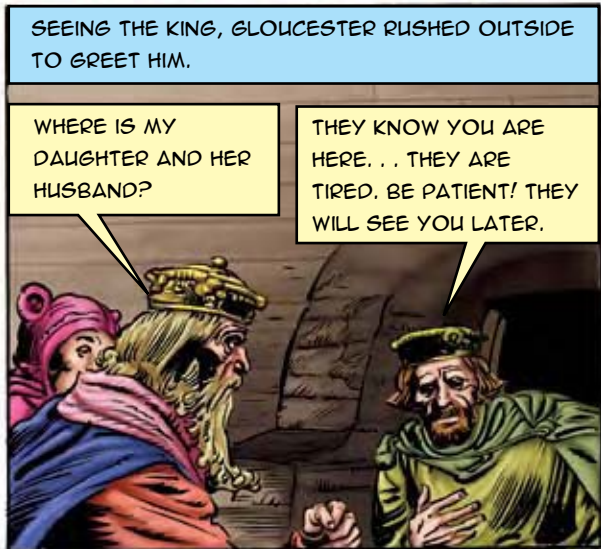






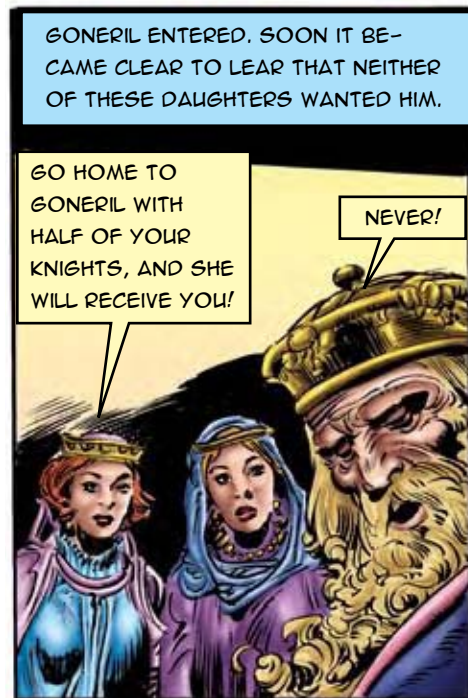


\* a wooden frame in which a person to be punished must sit for a certain time











WITH THAT, KING LEAR THREW UP HIS HANDS AND RUSHED AWAY. HE COULD NOT BELIEVE THAT HIS TWO DAUGHTERS HAD TURNED AGAINST HIM.

I WOULD RATHER LIVE OUTDOORS THAN UNDER YOUR ROOF! HEAVEN WILL GIVE ME MY REVENGE!\*

GO, THEN, OLD MAN!

BUT, SIR. . .

WE MUST GO IN. A STORM IS COMING!



GLOUCESTER FOLLOWED KING LEAR A SHORT WAY, BUT HE SOON RETURNED.

THE KING IS VERY ANGRY. HE'S LEAVING. WHERE WILL HE GO?

IT'S HIS OWN FAULT.

MAYBE IT WILL TEACH HIM A LESSON.



BUT THERE'S NOT EVEN A BUSH FOR SHELTER NEAR HERE!

HIS MEN WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM. SHUT YOUR DOORS AND LOCK THEM TIGHT!



REGAN ADVISES YOU WELL! IT IS A WILD NIGHT. COME INSIDE.

\* getting even with someone

DURING THE NIGHT THE STORM RAGED. ON THE HEATH,\* KENT MET ONE OF THE KING'S MEN.

WHERE IS THE KING?

OUT IN THE STORM. . . WITH ONLY HIS FOOL FOR COMPANY!



LISTEN! THE DUKES OF ALBANY AND CORNWALL ARE PLOTTING AGAINST EACH OTHER. GONERIL AND REGAN EACH WANT THE WHOLE KINGDOM! BUT HELP IS COMING FOR THE KING.



CORDELIA IS IN DOVER WITH A FRENCH ARMY. TAKE THIS RING, GO TO HER THERE, AND TELL HER WHAT'S HAPPENING.

I'LL GO QUICKLY!



MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE CASTLE, GLOUCESTER TALKED WITH EDMUND.

THEY'RE CRUEL TO THE OLD KING. THEY GIVE THE ORDERS IN MY OWN CASTLE. NOW THEY'RE FIGHTING AMONG THEMSELVES!

THAT'S VERY BAD!



\* a wild, marshy area



AND I'VE JUST HEARD THAT A FRENCH ARMY IS COMING TO HELP THE KING. I AM ON THE OLD KING'S SIDE IF I DIE FOR IT!



IT'S DANGEROUS, BUT I MUST GO AND FIND THE KING AND HELP HIM. TELL THE DUKE I AM ILL AND IN BED.



YES, FATHER.

MEANWHILE THE STORM STILL RAGED. KENT FOUND THE KING AND LED HIM TO A HUT.

AT LEAST IT'S SOMETHING. PLEASE GO INSIDE, SIR!

NO, I MUST PUT UP WITH WHAT THE POOR HAVE SUFFERED ALL THESE YEARS, WHEN I NEVER KNEW HOW IT WAS.



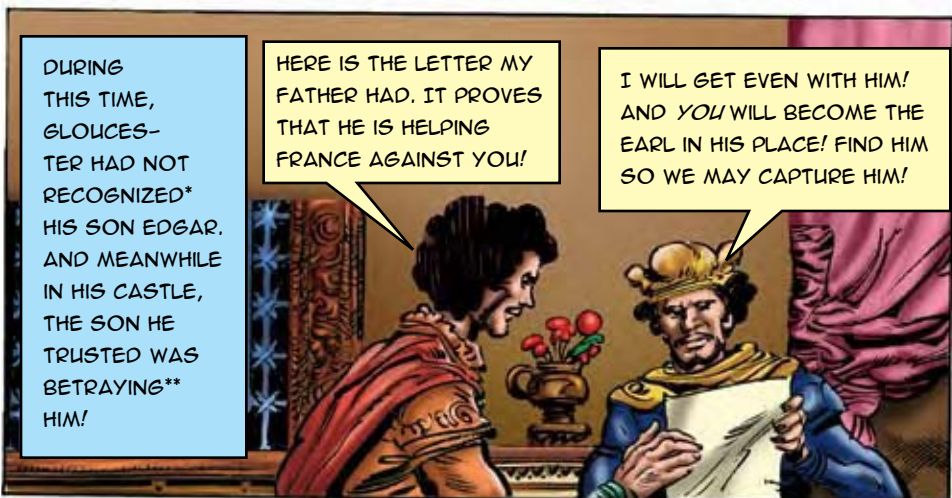
THERE'S A GHOST INSIDE HERE! HELP ME!

THE "GHOST" WAS EDGAR. TO ESCAPE, HE HAS DISGUISED HIMSELF AS A MAD BEGGAR.

GO AWAY!

HAVE HIS DAUGHTERS BROUGHT HIM TO THIS SAD STATE?

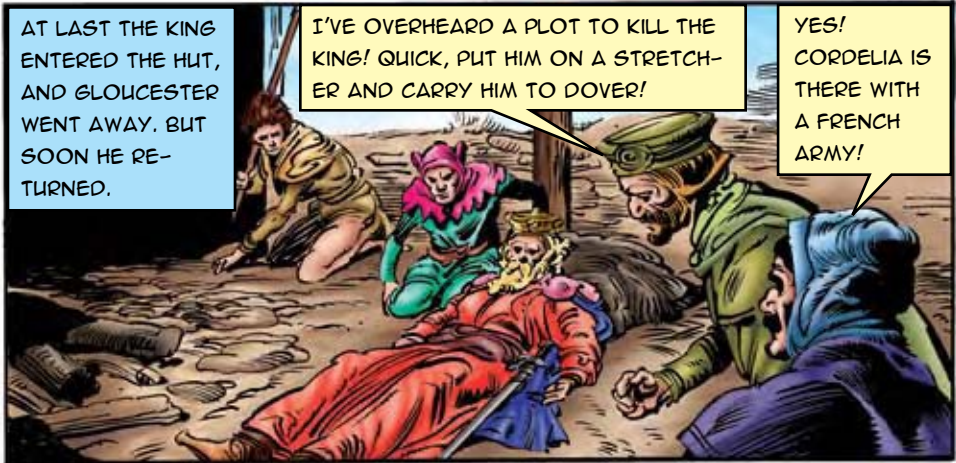


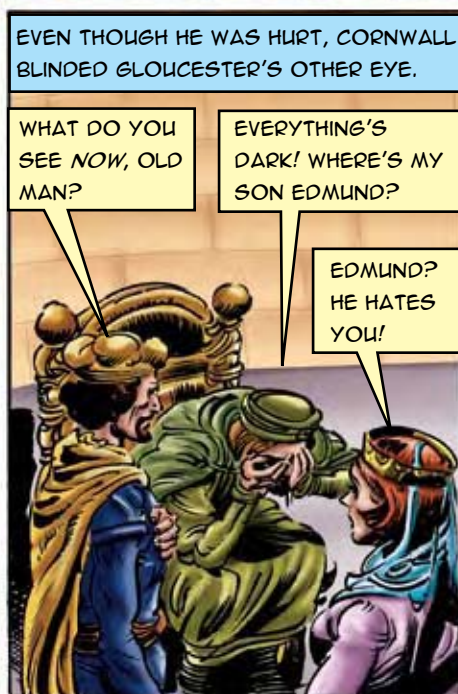


\* knew from seeing someone before

\*\* doing evil to someone who trusts him

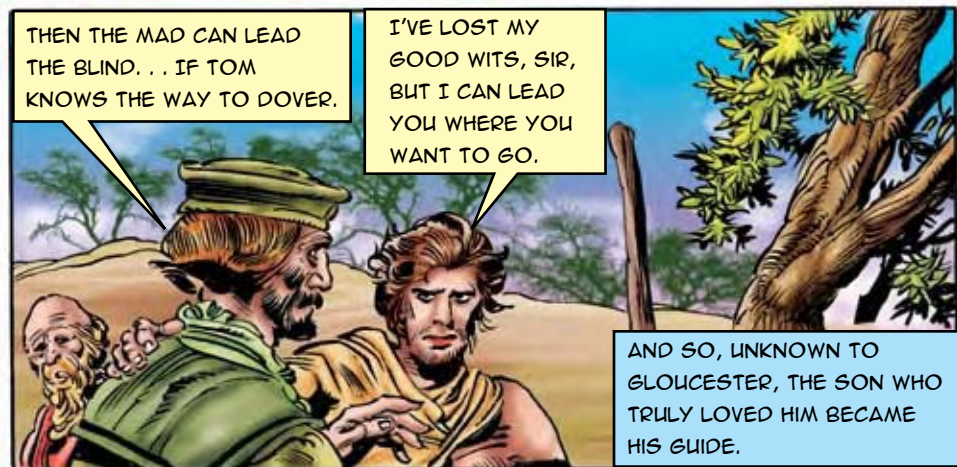






\* a person of low class





THE NEXT DAY, GONERIL AND EDMUND RETURNED TO ALBANY'S CASTLE.

WHERE IS THE DUKE?

INSIDE, BUT VERY CHANGED! WHEN HE HEARD A FRENCH ARMY HAD LANDED, HE WAS PLEASED!

ALBANY WAS A KIND, JUST MAN. WHEN HE HEARD HOW THE OLD KING AND GLOUCESTER HAD BEEN TREATED, HE WAS ANGRY. HIS LOVE FOR GONERIL HAD THAT MOMENT TURNED TO HATE.

THEN YOU MUST GO BACK TO CORNWALL. HELP THEM GET THEIR ARMY READY TO FIGHT THE FRENCH.

AND TAKE THIS KISS TO REMEMBER ME BY! YOU'LL HEAR FROM ME SOON.

I'M YOURS UNTIL DEATH!

FINDING EDMUND VERY MUCH LIKE HERSELF, GONERIL HAD FALLEN IN LOVE WITH HIM.

AS EDMUND LEFT, THE DUKE OF ALBANY ENTERED THE ROOM. AND ALMOST AT THE SAME TIME, A MESSENGER ARRIVED.

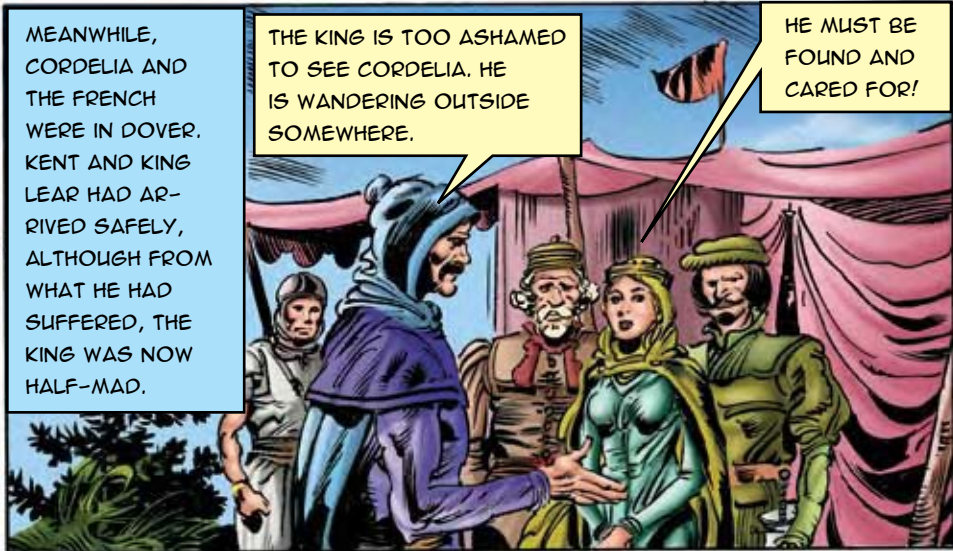
CORNWALL HAS DIED FROM HIS WOUND!

THEN HE HAS BEEN PUNISHED FOR HIS CRUEL ACTIONS!

AND REGAN'S A WIDOW,\* FREE TO MARRY EDMUND, WHOM I LOVE!

\* a woman whose husband has died





THEN HE FAINTED. EDGAR HELD HIM UNTIL HE CAME TO HIMSELF AGAIN.


WHERE AM I? DID I FALL? WHO ARE YOU?

I WAS HERE AT THE FOOT OF A HIGH CLIFF WHEN YOU JUMPED!


 A close-up illustration of Edgar, a man with a beard and brown hair, holding Cordelia, a woman with blonde hair, who appears to be unconscious or fainting. Edgar is looking down at her with a concerned expression.

I SAW YOU FALL! IT IS A MIRACLE\* THAT YOU ARE STILL ALIVE!

IF THE GODS HAVE SAVED ME, THEN I WILL STAY ALIVE, EVEN WITH NO EYES.


 A wider illustration showing Edgar and Cordelia walking away from the cliff. Edgar is supporting Cordelia, who is leaning on him. They are both looking back over their shoulders, presumably towards the cliff they just descended.

JUST THEN KING LEAR CAME UPON THEM, AND THEY COULD TELL THAT HE WAS MAD.

LOOK, LOOK... A MOUSE! DRAW YOUR SWORDS!

I KNOW THAT VOICE—IT'S THE KING!


 An illustration of King Lear, an older man with a long white beard and a crown, approaching Edgar and Cordelia. He is looking at them with a mad, intense expression. Edgar and Cordelia are looking back at him, looking concerned.

EDGAR AND GLOUCESTER LISTENED SADLY AS THE MAD KING RAVED. THEN CORDELIA'S MEN FOUND HIM.

HERE HE IS! TAKE HIM GENTLY!

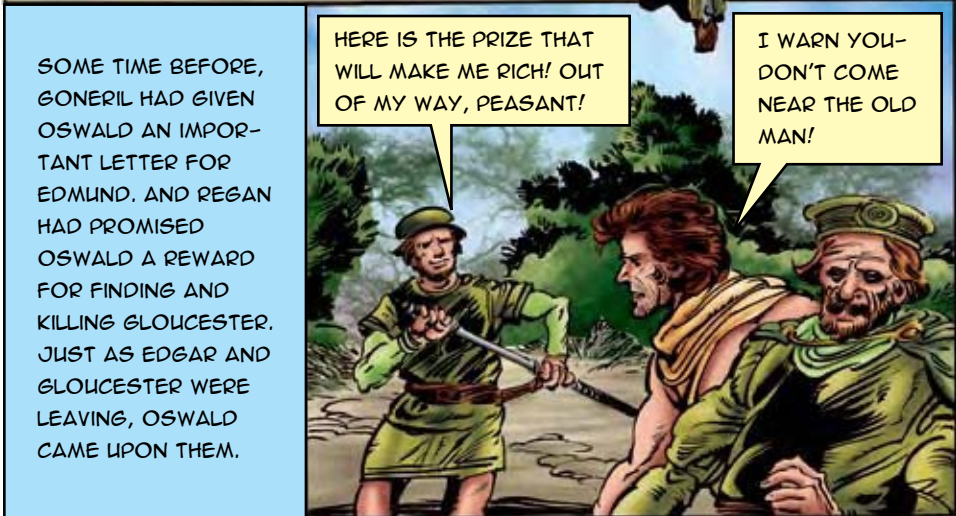
SIR, YOUR LOVING DAUGHTER...

AM I A PRISONER? TREAT ME WELL. I AM A KING.


 An illustration showing King Lear being taken away by several soldiers in green tunics. Edgar is in the foreground, looking back at the king with a sad expression. Cordelia is also present, looking on. The king is being led away by the soldiers.

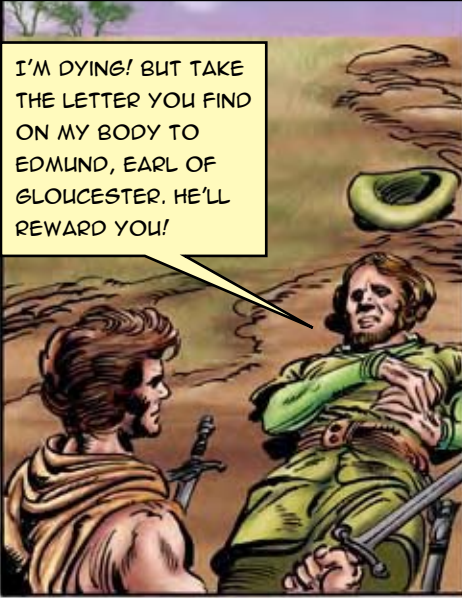
\* a wonderful happening that can't be explained or understood





BUT OSWALD WOULD NOT LISTEN.  
THEY FOUGHT AND OSWALD RECEIVED  
A FATAL\* WOUND.

I'M DYING! BUT TAKE  
THE LETTER YOU FIND  
ON MY BODY TO  
EDMUND, EARL OF  
GLOUCESTER. HE'LL  
REWARD YOU!



AS OSWALD DIED, EDGAR READ THE  
LETTER.

"YOU HAVE MANY CHANCES TO KILL  
MY HUSBAND AND FREE ME! REMEM-  
BER OUR VOWS OF LOVE AND RETURN  
TO MARRY ME. YOUR LOVING GON-  
ERIL." SO THAT IS WHAT'S HAPPENING!  
I WILL MAKE USE OF THIS AT A LATER  
TIME!



MEANWHILE, LEAR HAD AT LAST BEEN  
LED TO THE NEARBY FRENCH CAMP.

DEAR KENT, MY  
LIFE WILL BE TOO  
SHORT TO REPAY  
YOU FOR YOUR  
GOODNESS TO  
MY FATHER!

I WAS HAPPY TO  
HELP HIM, MADAM!



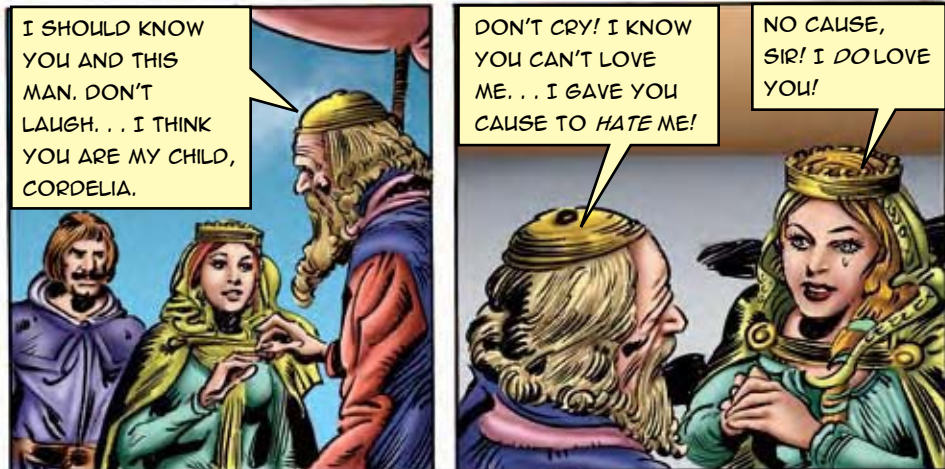
DOCTOR! HOW  
IS THE KING?

STILL SLEEPING. BUT  
I THINK YOU MIGHT  
WAKE HIM UP NOW.



\* leading to death





IN THE BRITISH CAMP, EDMUND AND REGAN WAITED FOR ALBANY AND GONERIL TO ARRIVE WITH THEIR ARMY.

I DON'T TRUST ALBANY! AND MY SISTER. . . ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH HER?

MY FEELINGS FOR YOUR SISTER ARE MOST HONORABLE!\*

CORNWALL'S DEATH HAD MADE REGAN A WIDOW. SHE WAS JEALOUS\*\* OF GONERIL BECAUSE SHE WAS NOW IN LOVE WITH EDMUND TOO.

SOON ALBANY AND GONERIL ARRIVED.

I WILL NOT FIGHT CORDELIA AND OUR KING—ONLY AGAINST THE FRENCH ARMIES WHO HAVE ENTERED OUR LAND.

WELL SPOKEN, SIR!

THERE'S REGAN. I'D RATHER LOSE THE BATTLE THAN LOSE EDMUND TO HER!

BUT THE SISTERS COULD NOT WORRY ABOUT EDMUND AT THE MOMENT. AS THEY LEFT FOR ALBANY'S TENT TO PLAN THEIR BATTLE, EDGAR ENTERED DRESSED AS A PEASANT.

BEFORE YOU FIGHT THE BATTLE, READ THIS LETTER. AND IF YOU NEED ME TO PROVE THE TRUTH OF IT, HAVE SOMEONE CALL FOR ME!

\* correct, the way something is supposed to be

\*\* wanting what someone else has



AT THIS EDGAR LEFT AND EDMUND RETURNED.

THE ENEMY'S  
HERE! GET READY.

WE ARE  
READY!



BOTH SISTERS LOVE ME AND ARE JEALOUS. REGAN IS ALREADY A WIDOW, BUT ALBANY MAY DIE IN BATTLE! WHICH ONE SHALL I CHOOSE?



WELL IN ANY CASE, LEAR AND CORDELIA MUST DIE, EVEN THOUGH ALBANY WILL PROTECT THEM.

SOON THE ARMIES MET IN BATTLE. IN A SHORT TIME EVERYTHING WAS OVER, AND EDGAR RUSHED BACK TO GLOUCESTER.



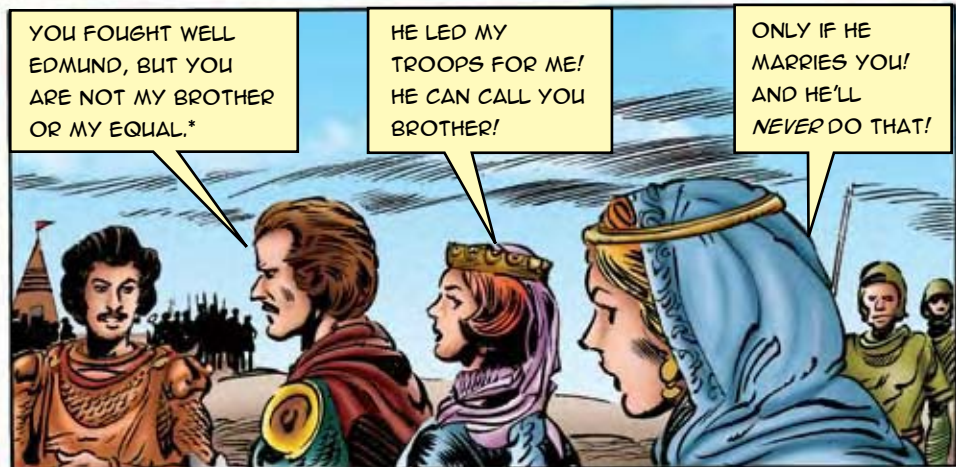
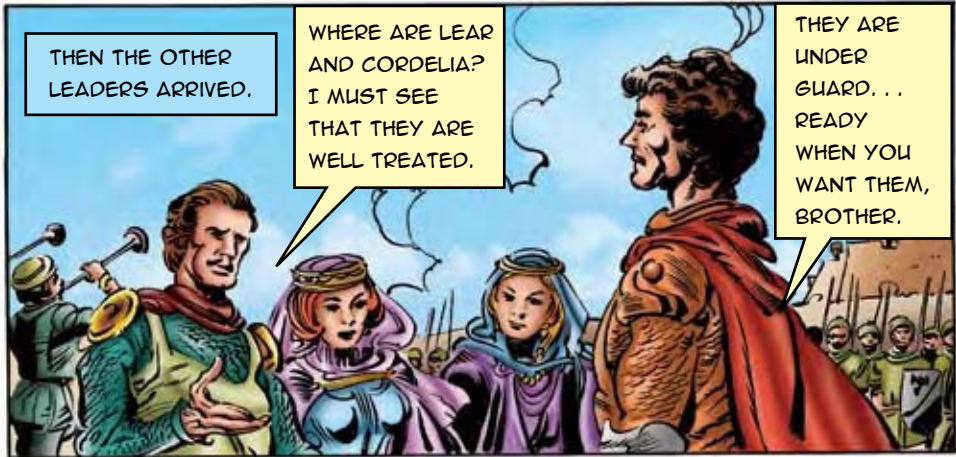
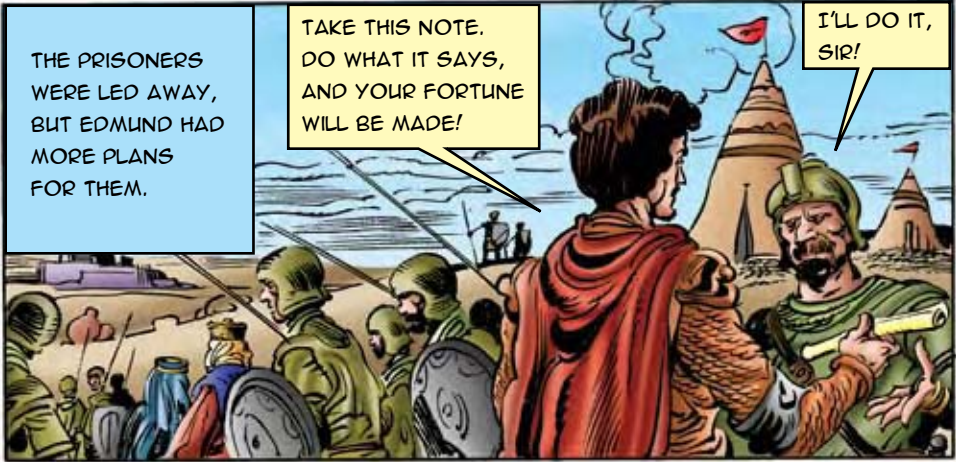
COME QUICK. . . I'LL LEAD YOU TO SAFETY! THE FRENCH ARE BEATEN! CORDELIA AND LEAR ARE CAPTURED!

IN THE BRITISH CAMP, EDMUND WAS IN CHARGE.

TAKE THEM AWAY  
TO PRISON!

COME! WE TWO WILL LIVE LIKE BIRDS IN A CAGE TOGETHER!



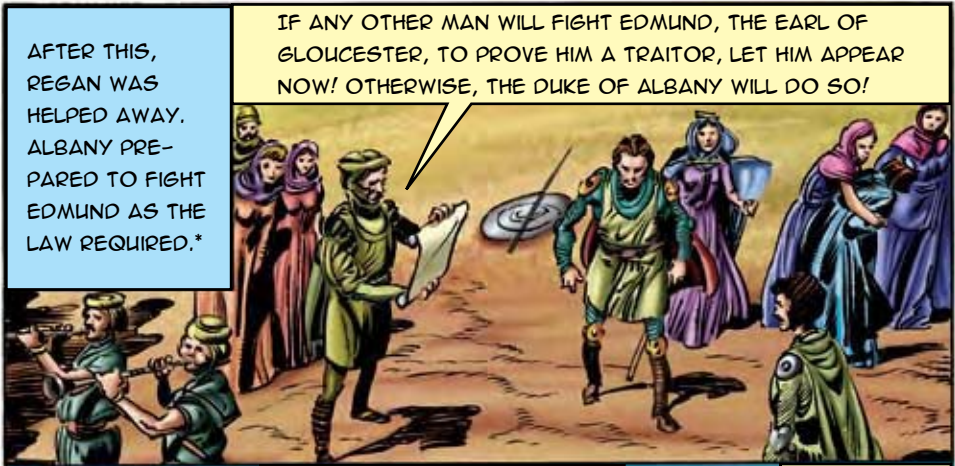


\* someone of the same class



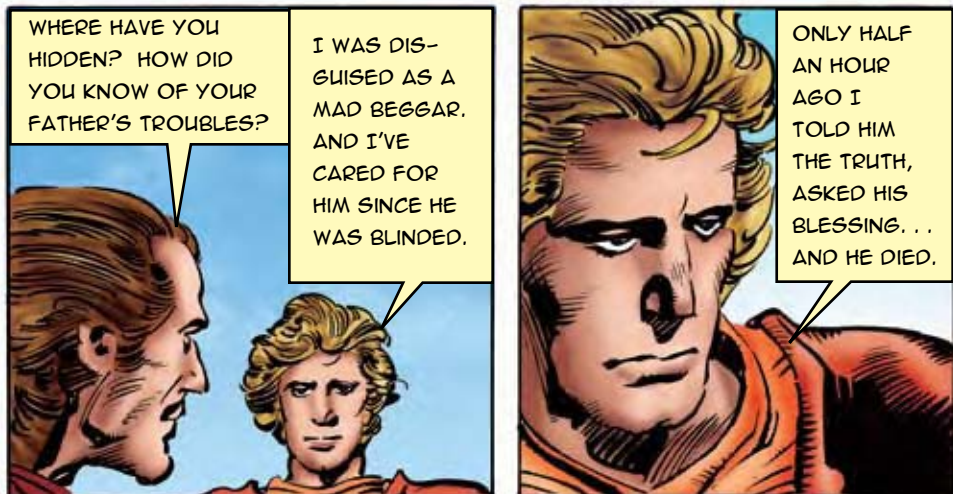
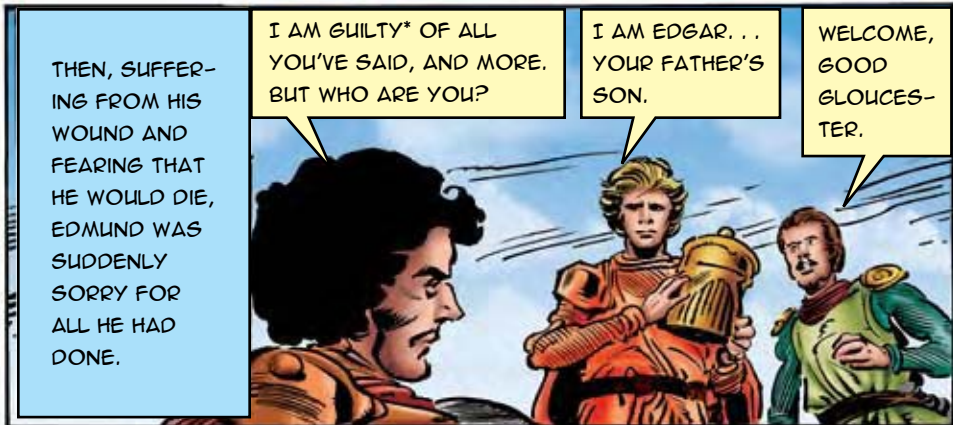


\* acting against one's own country

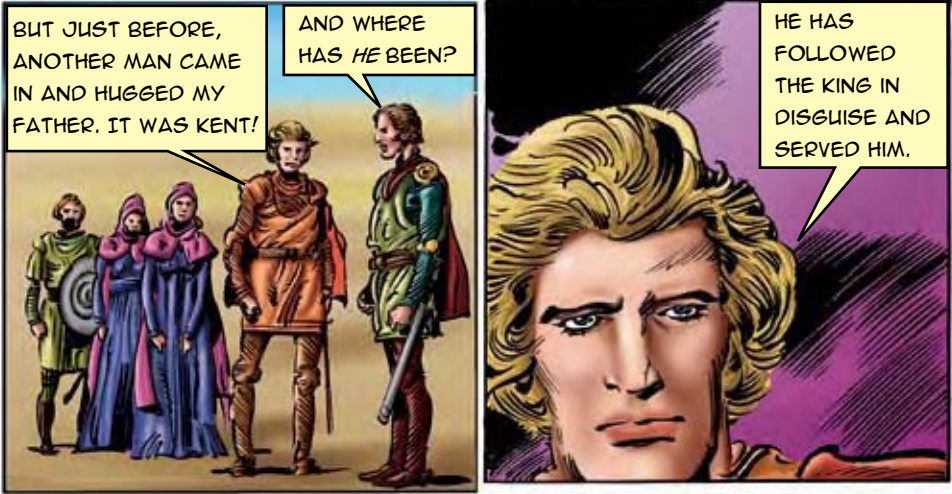


\* made necessary



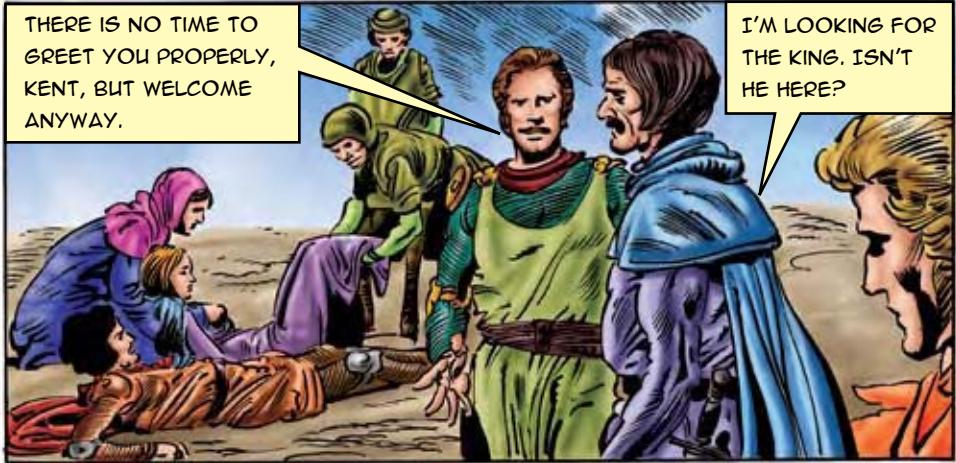


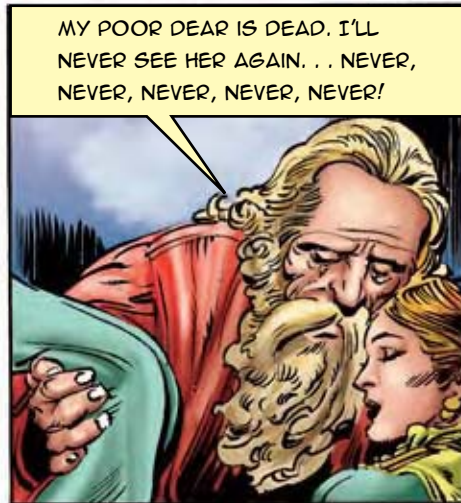
\* having done something wrong



\* admitted











# King Lear

Lear, the aging king, decides to relinquish his throne and divide his kingdom evenly among his three daughters as determined by their affirmations of love. Enraged and disappointed over daughter Cordelia's declaration, he banishes her and divides his kingdom equally between her two sisters. Jealousy and pride consume the two as they seek to control the kingdom. Treachery and betrayal lead to tragedy as the king slowly loses his grip on reality.

